## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant:** Kazuhiko MATSUMOTO

**Application No.:** 10/816,978

**Filing Date:** April 2, 2004

Title: MEDICAL IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND

MEDICAL IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

**Group Art Unit:** 2624

**Confirmation No.:** 1697

**Examiner:** Katrina R. Fujita

**Attorney Docket No.:** 060233.00005

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2008, please amend the claims as follows and consider the accompanying remarks. This amendment has been prepared in accordance with the rules promulgated under 37 CFR §1.121.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 16 of this paper.